9-14-95

Entertainment

New view of the Emmy Awards

See Page 3

Premiere Edition

Sports

Home opener is a hit

See Page 4

VALLEY STAR

Volume 47, Issue No 38 | Los Angeles Valley College | Van Nuys, California | September 14, 1995

News Notes

On Sep. 19, the fall 1995 counseling lunchtime workshop series will hold a lecture entitled **"Study Skills: Planning and Preparing,"** led by Dr. Synthia Saltoun. The event will go from noon to 1 p.m. in FL 102.

Mt. Sac. On both Fri. Sep. 15 and Sat. Sep. 16, the monarch water polo team will compete in the annual Mt. Sac water polo tournament. This match will last all day for both days.

Sat. Sep. 16, in Monarch Stadium, at 7:00 p.m., **Valley** will play host to **Mt. San Jacinto** in the monarchs' second football game of the season.

Elementary Algebra Competency Test Schedule will be held Thur., Sep. 14 at 9:00 a.m. in Campus Center, Room 116. No appointment is necessary. The test may be taken only once and takes 50 minutes. It meets the Math Competency Requirement for the Associate Degree.

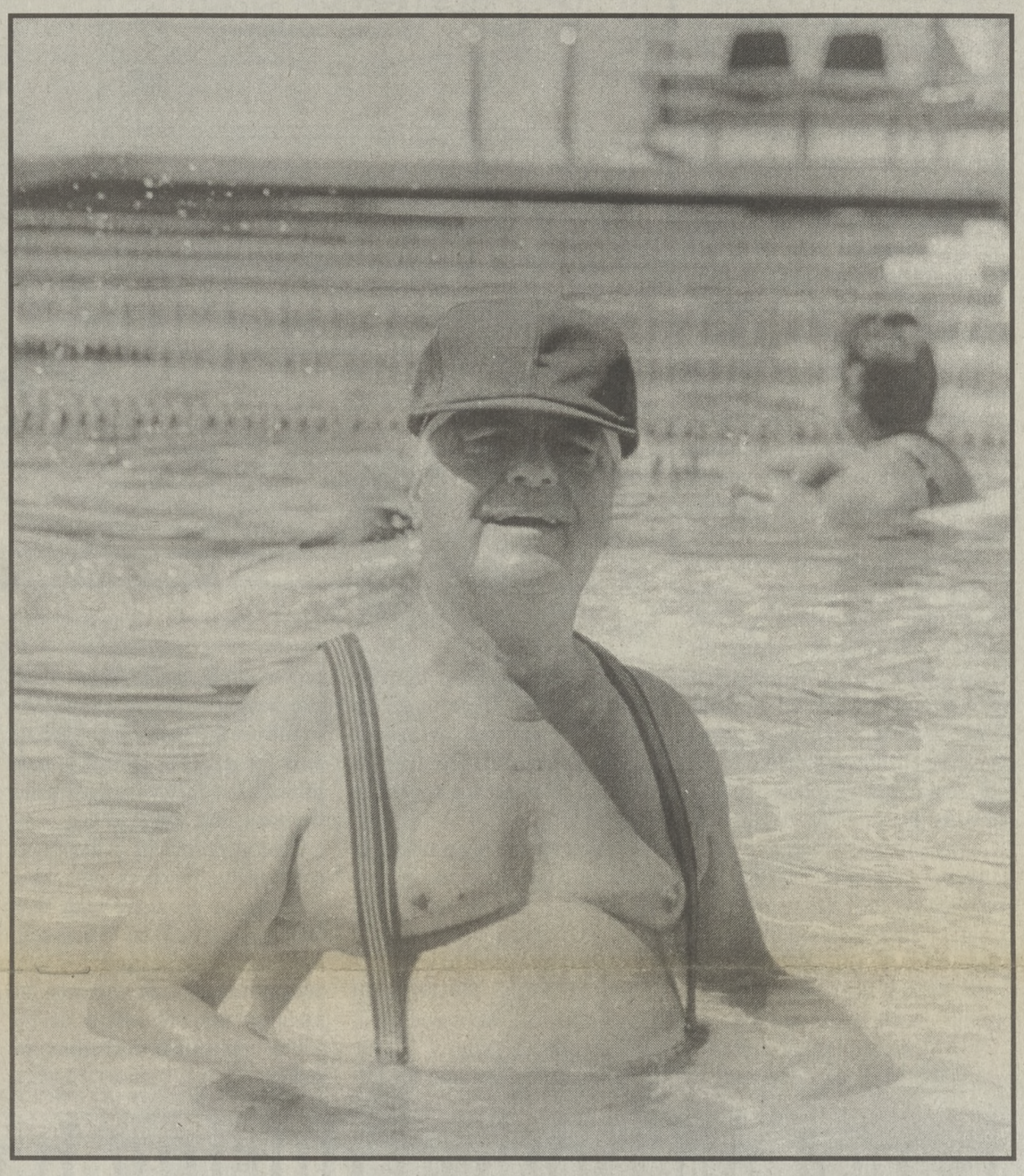
Spring Arts Festival-Diane Wintrob is setting up a committee to plan the spring Arts Festival. If any faculty or staff are interested in participating, please contact her at ext. 347.

Representatives from the following universities will be on campus to meet with prospective transfer students. CSUN: Sept. 14, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in Monarch Square. Woodbury University: Sept. 14, 5 to 7 p.m., in the cafeteria. Lee College, University of Judaism: Sept. 18, 10 to 11 a.m., by appointment in the Transfer Center. UCLA: Sept. 26, 10 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 3 p.m., by appointment in the Transfer Center. For information, call Barbara Goldberg, Career/Transfer Center Director, ext. 246.

For fall 1995, some student **health programs** are: Cholesterol Screening on Sept. 28 and a Blood Drive on Oct. 10 and 11. Call the Student Health Clinic at (818) 780-0652 for more information or visit the clinic located in the Women's Gym.

A lecture called **Being Alive-Living with AIDS** will be conducted on Sept. 27 in CC 208 from 1 to 2 p.m.

]Financial Aid-Ability to Benefit Test Schedule will be on Thur., Sept. 28 at 9 a.m. in CC 116. No appointment is necessary. Bring a picture ID. The test takes 90 minutes.



DAWN REDMANN/VALLEY STAR

Bob Roth beats the heat in his Physical Education class after a week of scorching 100 plus temperatures.

Bush heads up Star

By Sierra Roberts
Valley Star Staff Writer

This week the pressure begins to mount for Shawn Bush as he takes on the job of editor in chief of the Valley Star. With goals set on an expanded coverage of the student body, Bush has high hopes for this semester.

As new editor, Bush plans to concentrate on story features and covering all activities on campus, especially those groups that have not gotten adequate recognition in the past. Realizing there is a diverse range of age and cultural groups on campus with many different talents, interests and points of view, he wants such stories explored in the paper.

He will be looking to the staff to do "a lot of hard work and digging for information so that stories are well balanced in their views." Working as a team and reliance on each other will be two important elements Bush will be looking for from his staff. As editor, Bush sees himself as responsible for "managing the talents of writers and editors and finding a happy medium in personalities in order to meet deadlines on time and put out a quality paper."

To Bush a good paper keeps its readers updated on what's happening on campus "as well as provides interest to a wide range of students." Bush also sees the paper as a venue to entertain, "Everyone wants an escape from their world, people enjoy reading about interesting people—that's what makes the paper exciting."

Being involved in journalism ever since he can remember, Bush brings experience and an eye for quality to the school paper. "I used to write for fun when I was growing up, started taking classes in Jr. High and I wrote for the school paper in High School," Bush said. He has also been on the Star Staff since Spring 1995, where he was the Opinion editor for one semester.

Bush wants to learn about the people at Valley and their experiences and wants "everyone to feel free to meet me in the bungalow or leave a note in my box." He also strongly encourages any students who have comments to write in to 'Letters to the Editor.' Bush said, "The Valley Star is for the students and I take my role very seriously."

Once completed with his studies at Valley, Bush plans to transfer to California State University Northridge as a Journalism major. After that he plans to "establish a steady income through free lance writing" and eventually hopes to write a novel.

Enrollment causing funding concerns

By Jose Israel Lemus
Valley Star Staff Writer

A light drop in enrollment from last year's Fall semester is nothing out of the ordinary but it still is something "to keep an eye on," according to campus administrators.

Dean of Students Services Sam Mayo said to "feel very positive" about future growth. "We are going to do better — that is my philosophy in life —you can always do better."

As of Sept. 12 Valley's computer showed a number of 15,933 students registered, 362 less from the same day of Fall 94, representing an approximate 2.5 percent decline.

Mayo said the causes affecting enrollment are numberless. "When you have 16,000 people a lot of things happen," things the college has no control of.

Included are effects of the Northridge earthquake. "I know people who have left the state because of the earthquake," he said. Those people were families whose children who could have been potential Valley College students.

Other factors, Mayo said, have to do with state policies toward education.

In the 1980's, the educational system suffered from consecutive budget cuts.

"There has not been a commitment to education by the last couple of governors in California. We are depending upon the state like an alcoholic depends on the bottle."

Mao said the college also needs to offer more classes in subjects of demand, such as English, computer courses, and others. "But there is only so many we can accommodate," he said.

"I know in my heart that students are dropping because they can't get the classes they want," he said. (22,567 students originally applied this semester). "So it is not the college fault," he said.

Administration said they hope the near future will bring changes that will result in higher enrollment. The law responsible for raising tuition for students with baccalaureate degrees will expire on December, it is predicted those students fees will go back to normal, $13 a unit. George Prather, a research analyst for the Los Angeles Community College District, said it is hard to determined all the causes in enrollment drop but the loss of students with baccalaureate degrees "probably accounted for about half of the decline" in the last three years.

"We don't know really what this fall is going to look like at end but the enrollment difference from fall 1994 is close enough to cause some concern in terms of funding," Prather said. Community colleges are funded through enrollment.

GAIN provides improvement for student lives

By Lisa Lewenberg
Valley Star Staff Writer

Dr. Lester Schneider, the founder and director of GAIN (Greater Avenues for Independence) at Valley College prepares to steer the program in new directions.

GAIN provides single mothers and fathers on AFDC (Aid for Families with Dependent Children) a chance to improve their lives and those of their children. Participants receive their assistance with child care, housing, medical insurance and books.

If the new changes occur, there are over 400 students at Valley who may benefit. These students currently attend only one or two classes a semester because of financial or time restrictions. The program could enable them to enroll in additional classes and obtain their goals in less time.

The program focuses on three distinct areas: Adult Basic Education, ESL Training and the General Education Diploma (GED). Most students do not have high school diplomas.

In fact, the majority have very little education ar all. Some do not speak English. Ninety-nine percent are single mothers.

The purpose of the program is to train valuable skills to participants in order to match them with quality jobs and get them off welfare.

Since its implementation in 1989, the program has been referral only. This means participants may only be referred to the program by their social agency, in this case the AFDC.

However, Dr. Schneider is speaking with the director of the GAIN regional office in Panorama City with the hopes of transforming the program into a voluntary one.

The students currently participating are the highest risk students. They have been unemployed a long time and quite often are second and third generation welfare recipients.

"Many participants did not have the opportunities most of us were given and some were even encouraged not to seek education at all," says Dr. Schneider.

Schneider's method of reaching students focuses around their children. He states, "They often begin the program passive and uninterested but become dedicated in order to make a better life for their children."

He repeatedly reinforces the importance of discontinuing welfare, learning skills and getting a job in order for their children to have a better chance in life and seize the opportunities they missed.

One of the first things a new GAIN student is asked is, "Where do you want to be in ten years?" For most participants, it is a new idea to think of anything more than the day to day struggles of survival.

GAIN has changed the lives of many who believed they had no control over the direction they were going.

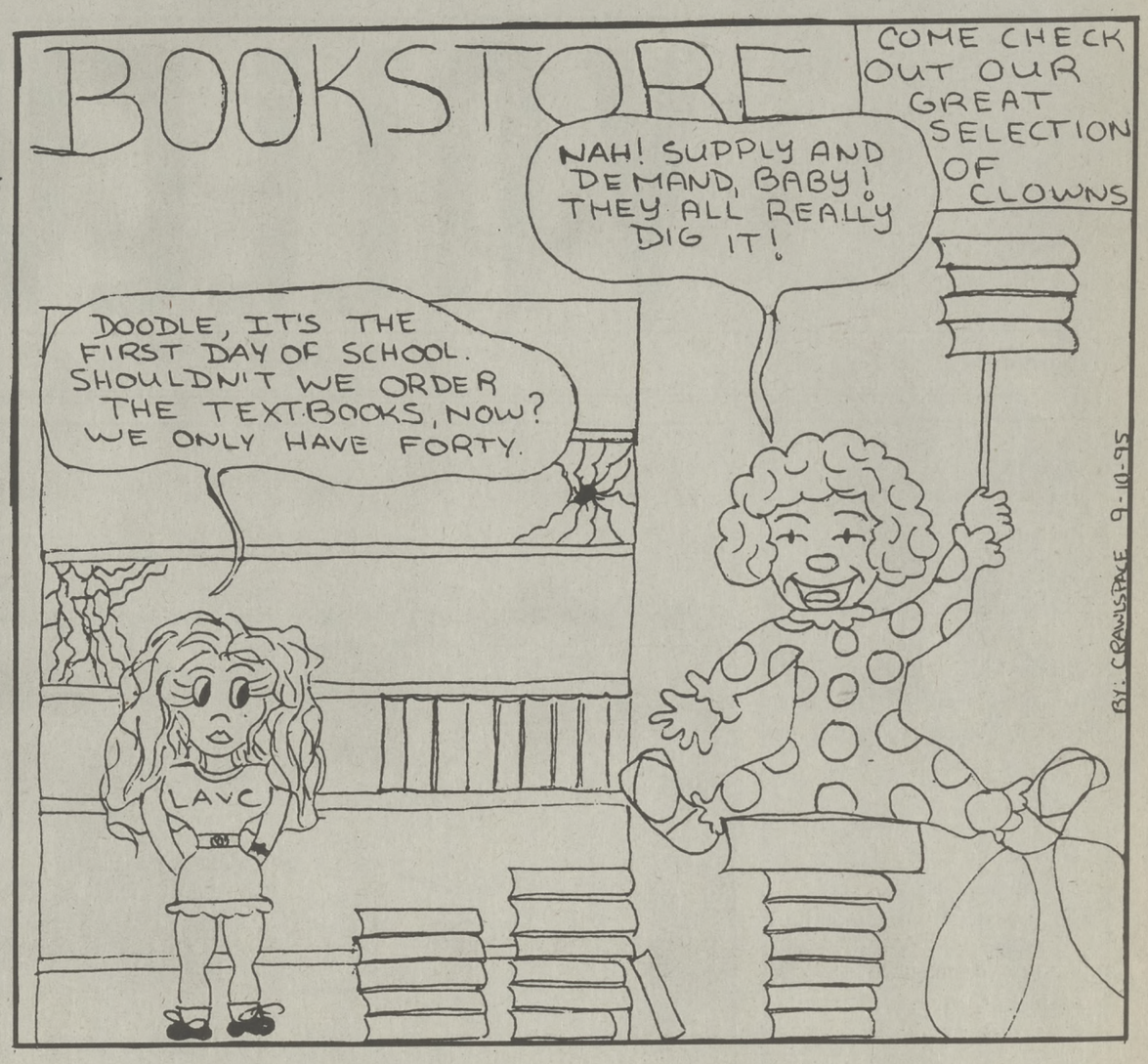
One of the primary reasons Dr. Schneider strives for the policy change is to extend GAIN's benefits to those students currently enrolled at Valley College.

"They have realized the value and necessity of knowledge and are in pursuit of higher education and better employment. Give me these motivated students and with a planned training program I'll have them working in skilled positions and enjoying a better quality of life within a year and a half," Schneider says.

Those who feel they may qualify for assistance can contact the GAIN office in Bungalow 49 for additional information.

Editorial

Bookstore blunders beyond control of management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NAH! SUPPLY AND DEMAND, BABY! THEY ALL REALLY DIG IT!
DOODLE, IT'S THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. SHOULDN'T WE ORDER THE TEXTBOOKS, NOW? WE ONLY HAVE FORTY.
LAVC
BY: CRAWLSPACE 9-10-95

Everyone dreads buying their text books at the book store. If your are lucky, you wait just under an hour to get in. Once you get to the shelves you scour through the stacks hoping the books your are picking out are the right ones. If you can not find anything then you grit your teeth and hope the clerk can find it in back or give you the time when it should be in. After you have done all this, you go and wait in yet another line to pay.

Once you think you have been through the worst of it you find out one or more of the books you got are the wrong ones and you have to go back into the lion's den, so to speak. Enough to make you and loath the bookstore. There really must be something seriously wrong with them, right?

That is what the article was going to be about, how the book store is so messed up. Things did not go acording to plan. We first went to two teachers whose books had to be returned because the labeling on the shelf was not clear. Both of them promptly admitted the mistakes were their fault, not the bookstore's.

A little more humble we went to see someone in the book store. After talking with her briefly she referred us to the Assistant Manger, David Dever. We were surprised to find that David was polite and perfectly willing to talk to us.

Dever talked to us about the problems he has been having. At the beginning of every semester all of the students come in a two week period to buy their books, 15,000 of us this semester.

Not all of the teachers get their book requsitions on time, sometimes not until after the beginning of the semester. There are teachers hired at the last minute and others get changed because of emergencies or schedule changes.

Publishers change their book prices at the last minute so they are unsure of some book prices or the prices are different the register than on the shelf. Registration is required for book purchasing to ensure those people registered for their classes are able to get their books from the amount ordered for the class.

On top of that there are things like books from the previous semester to buy back, returns or exchanges from people that have changed their schedules, book grants from everywhere to take care of, and people stealing (yes, people do steal the textbooks that we need and would pay our honest money for). And you thought you had a hard time just buying from the book store.

Now you may say the Assistant Manager is belly aching about his problems and he is just trying to cover up whatever they are trying to hide. Besides talking to him, we went to Mary Ann Breckell, the Vice President of Administration, about the bookstore and how it works.

We found Ms. Breckell to be honest and straight forward. She confirmed what Dever had told us as well as telling us how the Book Store is managed from the upper levels. All nine community college book stores in the L.A. district form their own company by coordinating certain information and pooling their resources. For example all nine stores agree on the prices for the books they are going to sell to make sure that everyone is selling the same books at the same prices.

The profit that the bookstore makes goes into the district and comes back to the bookstore to pay salaries and to cover expenses. If one bookstore in the district comes up with a deficit then all the other book stores help in help pay, then those other stores get their same percentage back while the loss is mark by the store that was behind.

Why are we telling you this? Because to all appearances the book store has no stash of money siting around taken from all the book mark ups. If you really have a problem with the book store then maybe you should try the district.

So why are we ranting and raving about the book store and its problems. Our point is that the logistics of this whole thing are difficult for any one to handle. Could it be possible that there is more to it than just the bookstore screwing up?

Of course it is a big problem to use the book store but then where else are we going to get all our books without running all over the city. Like it or not we have to live with the bookstore. Maybe it will never be perfect but it could become a workable thing.

There have been ideas for improvement by the bookstore itself like having a lottery to see who would use the bookstore on certain days for reducing crowds to publishing a list of hints to make using the book store easier to use.

Other departments in the school could help.,Teachers who have software to go along with their books, could hold on to that software until their students get their books. Having each academic department put out a flyer listing which books their instructors are using.

Now if you have any ideas, we have been told by Mary Ann Breckell that there will be a suggestion box in the bookstore for about a month starting Oct. 1st. They will not be able to respond to each idea that they will be getting but they will put out the results and announce any changes.

The cynical will say this is just another thing they are doing to cover themselves but we can not know until we try.

Maybe we will see improvements at the bookstore.

Dropping school is not an option during hard times

By Jose Israel Lemus
Valley Star Staff Writer

Dropping school for good has been a traveling thought in my mind lately. But there is some sort internal force that keeps me going. I attribute this to my mother. In hard times I think of her the most.

My mother has never quit in life. She was 22 days old when her mom died, but she didn't quit life. A women, friend of the family, raised her. She became her second mother but died when the young girl was 13. Since then, my mother took life on her own. Her father, a womanizer, spent his time scoring girls. Her brother nothing more than a moral support. Her older sister fled with her boyfriend to have 10 children. My mother then became the strong pillar of the family at a very early age. A hard working young woman, began to build a small liquor store, all sorts of items for sell. She supported herself and very often her father and brother. She was respected by all men and women in the village. The man she married, my father, wouldn't otherwise had married her. He was a man with pride, from a reputable family.

They were both 25 when they got married. But the unpredictable has been written. 10 years later he accidentally passed away, and she was left with four kids to raise.

Anyone in this situation would have probably gone insane. My mother did not. She put us all through high school by working hard. Hard with the full meaning of the word. For a country widow this was quite something. She never quit. She is a courageous woman, a paradox of tragedy and success, with more of success. She makes us all proud.

That is why during hard times I do nothing less but think of her, dearly. I love her and I miss her. She lives in El Salvador.

My problems are miniature compared to what my mother has gone through. I think of her as a brave woman in a battle against the oddities of life.

And I think to myself, if she is a brave woman, I must be a brave man. Her blood runs in my arteries, my heart, my veins... I have the makings for success.

That is why it is sad to let go my speech 101 class, my beloved history 13 and theater class. Quitting brings a sad feeling. It disturbs your soul for a time. It depresses you.

I had planned to enrich myself this semester, by taking some classes that I like before I transfer. In the university I will take only what I need. There, it is to expensive to take classes for fun.

My plans had changed.

August 22, the bare thought of putting off school scared me. Need more money, I thought, lots of it, need to fix my Toyota that's falling apart, need another job, need to transfer, need to graduate, need to pass, that, math. I must go back to school... all this in my mind. I didn't know what to do. I felt clumsy, did not sleep the night before, thinking. I was shaking. I was undergoing a reality-quake, ready to fall apart, my mind on fire.

I thought I'd stayed home to cool down my thoughts — be objective, realistic, and reasonable, make a decision, draft a plan. It was Tuesday, the first day of school but I had no classes yet in my schedule. "Everything will be fine," I thought, a consoling thought.

So I drafted my plan. I would be a nerd this semester. Four classes awaited for me, I thought, they will have little projects, weekly assignments, exams, mid-terms and finals, essay writings with reviews — all these classes should have A's, minimum B's. I must pull up my GPA. "Four month from now," I imagined, "I'll be wearing my black gown, my black cap, diploma at hand and a smile as Jim Carey's (from the Mask)."

To do this, I would live a simple life. Do things like, re-wear my worn out cloth (which is fashionable anyway), wear the same shoes, same hair cut, and control my appetite for restaurant dishes. In short, I would be cheap.

Also in my plan, I would do my homework in between classes. And in between classes, I would go out to look for another part time job. One that would fit my schedule, see, the perfect job, not like the one I had the summer. I would be in school when I wouldn't have to be at work and at work when I wouldn't be in school —somewhat like a work-study-holic body. A complete nerd, but in college.

But now my plan sits on shaky ground, like an old building on Parthenia, cracked all over from the Northridge quake, undergoing major aftershoks. Pieces are falling.

Sunday Sept. 3, I had to redraft my plan. I rode the bus from Los Angeles to Van Nuys. It took me two hours to get home. I got immersed, worry, thinking in my first plan, then new ideas.

The RTD can guarantee your failure in speech 101, if you didn't make it on time for your presentation. I think you know what I mean. My car gave up on me — middle of the night after work. That night I looked at it and I wished I could talk to it. Tell it how much I needed it. "Come on, stay with me," or something like that. But I realized I get my share of the bill.

Throughout the summer I drove it without mercy. I took it, or rather, it took me east and west, north and south all over greater Los Angeles. (I did inventories for major department stores, which required much traveling). But all things come to an end. Even with machines, I guess you have to be fair, humane.

My car is still in repose. I do not know exactly what's the problem with it. But in all possibilities the poor brownie must have gotten one of those terminal illnesses, wore out brakes, broken clutch, leaking hoses and more.

It needs good treatment and care. Now I really have to fix it.

Need to work more.

In my second plan I have become a full-time job seeker, part- time student.

I'm happy I have a plan. I only hope I can hold on.

Still, this story would be all pathetic if I don't tell you this: I have not given up completely, and I'm not about to.

I should accommodate my schedule for my study of math, and hopefully for my English class.

I must not quit.

Bye for now, I have one more thing to think ...

...black gown on, black cap on, diploma at hand, and smile ...

(Like Jim Carey made famous in The Mask.)

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✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪

The Valley Star will receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist, or sexually oriented denigrations. Letter must be signed and include student's ID number. Letters may be dropped at the Valley Star Bungalow 25, by Monday morning for the following Thursday.

An evening at the 47th annual Emmy's

By BRISTOL MAC DONALD
Valley Star Staff Writer

INT. STAR EDITORIAL OFFICE - LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE - FRIDAY MORNING

I sat on the edge of the small sofa, eagerly awaiting my first assignment. From across the desk the head of the journalism department looked me straight in the eyes and asked, "Would you like to go to the Emmys?"

"Is a Rabbi jewish? Ofcourse I want to go." I replied.

"Great. You'll cover the story for the Star, but you'll be a seat filler. Is that okay?" she enquired.

"I'll fill seats. I'll hang from the chandeliers if you want me to." I said enthusiastically.

"Good. Have fun and get the story." were the last words I remember hearing.

I was suddenly in possession of the hottest ticket in town. An invitation to the 47th Annual Emmy Awards held at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. I imagined rubbing elbows with television's most powerful executives and celebrities at one of Hollywood's most glamorous extravaganzas, anticipated by millions all over the world. My head in the clouds, I left the office, invisioning myself mingling with the stars, pitching story ideas to Steven Bochco, making plans to do lunch with Garry Shandling and shaking hands with Steven Speilberg after finalizing a deal to write his next $80 million project. "You'll be a seat filler." the words rang in my ears, evaporizing my cloud and bringing me crashing down to reality. In all the excitement I had forgotten to ask, what exactly is a seat filler?

CUT TO
INT. PASADENA HOLIDAY INN - SUNDAY AFTERNOON

I burst into the rather modest hotel lobby filled with anticipation. Wearing a full length evening gown, I attempted to carry myself with all the grace and elegance of a star. I guess my ego was hoping the I would be mistaken for a celebrity and directed to the auditorium across the street, but that dilusion was shattered when the woman at the front desk casually looked me over and explained that seat fillers need to check in, receive their official seat filler tag, proceed to the next room and wait. So much for star quality.

"Is a Rabbi Jewish?"

I proceeded to one of the large, stark banquet rooms and entered what immediately struck me as a scene out of a bad B prom movie. Men in a variety of tuxedos and women in outrageously outdated gowns. It was a sight that the infamous fashion buster, Mr. Blackwell would have had a field day with. I took a seat and asked the woman to my left, who was wearing so much blue eyeshadow it was hard to focus on her eyes, what exactly a seat filler does. A six year seat filler veteran, she explained very seriously that our responsibility as seat fillers is to fill space. If an actor is to leave his seat, even to go to the bathroom for a moment, a seat filler must be alert and at attention at all times. They must move quickly she emphasized.

In the camera's eye the audience must continuously appear filled to capacity. That did not sound too hard.

Seat fillers, I learned, who either work at Fox or are members of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, take their responsibilities very seriously. There was a definite distinction between the veterans and the first timers, like myself. First of all, the confused looks on our faces was a dead give away. We hung out, talking about which stars we most wanted to sit next to, date, fall in love with and marry. The veterans calmly sat in their chairs saving their energies for showtime. When the big moment finally arrived and the doors were pulled open, these people sprang out of their seats with such fury, I stood frozen in awe. In mass, they piled outside and ran for the side door of the auditorium. To avoid being trampeled, I hiked up my dress, cursing my high heeled pumps and clumsily joined in the procession. These veterans, in their low, sensible shoes, moved like lightning bolts. I had to admit, they were good.

You'll be a seat filler. Is that okay?" I'll fill seats. I'll hang from the chandeliers if you want me to."

Bristol Mac Donald
Valley Star Staff Writer

CUT TO
EXT. PASADENA CIVIC AUDITORIUM - LATE AFTERNOON

We stood like cattle in the scorching September sun, waiting for our grand entrance. The minutes felt like hours as the women desparately tried to repair their distorted make-up and the men removed their jackets to ensure the safe return of their rented tuxedos. In the distance we watched as the helicopters hovered above and the endless line up of limosuines crawled to the front of the building The stars emerged from these impressive vehicles in all their glory, greeted by the hundreds of screaming fans and crazed paparazzi that filled the street.

Heather Locklear, Cyndi Lauper,Julia Louis-Dreyfus, in a dress even Madonna would have thought twice about wearing, and Kelsey Grammer breezed past us cool, collected and glamorous as they headed inside. Despite my sudden jealousy for air conditioned limosuines, I felt the excitement build within me. History will be made behind those closed doors tonight and I will be a part of it. Once the stars were properly in position, we were finally allowed to enter this exclusive get together.

To be continued next issue...

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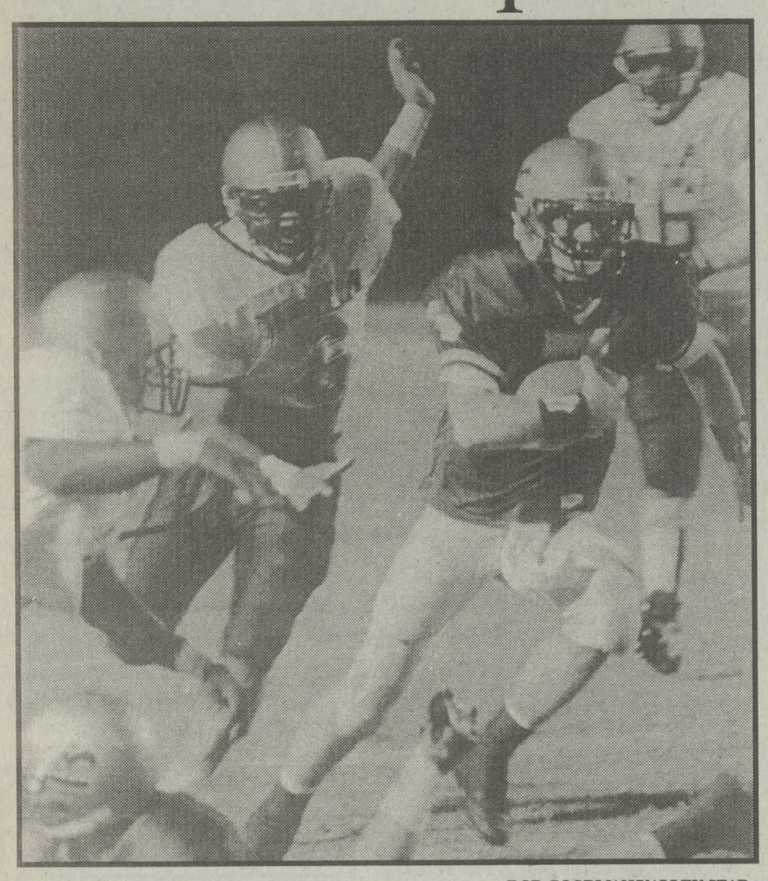


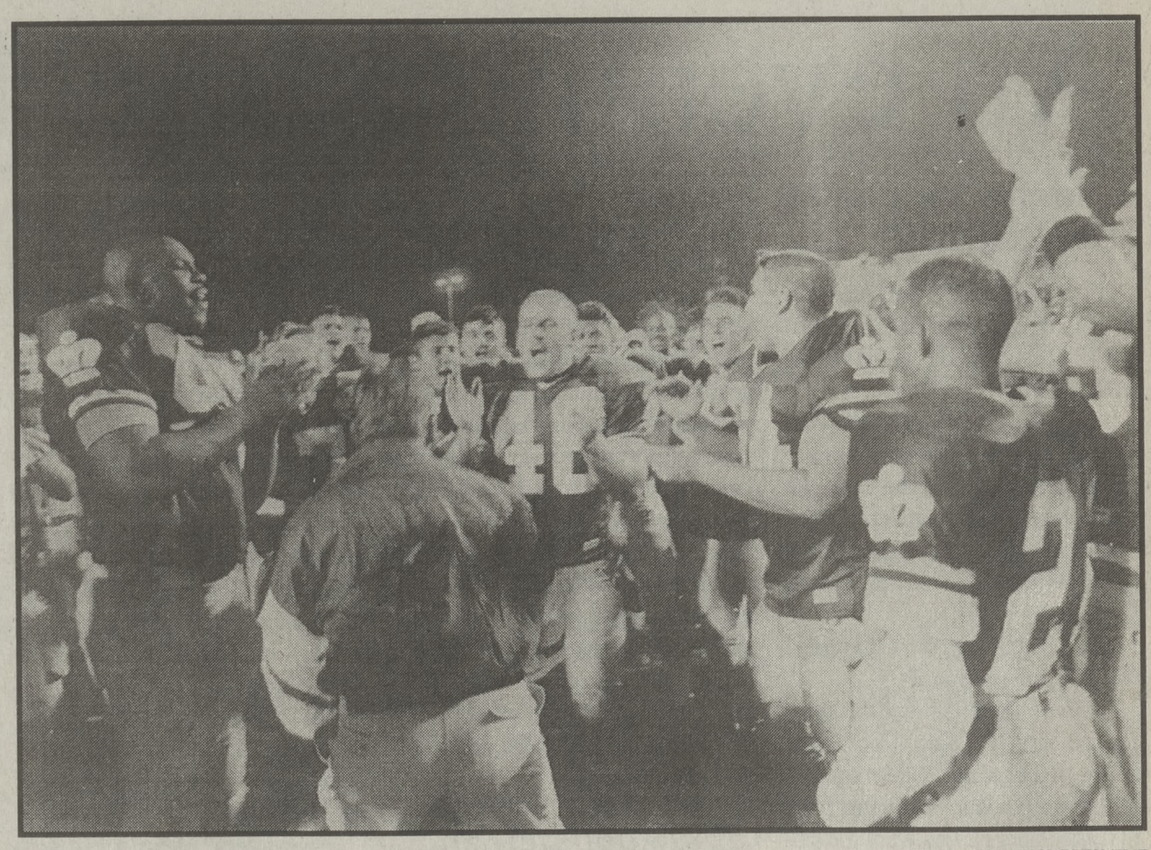
ROD GOODMAN/VALLEY STAR
New Quarterback Aaron Flowers blasts through West LA's defense.

By JAMES JAMORA
Valley Star Staff Writer

Monarchs kicked off a spectacular season by defeating the West Los Angeles Oilers at the first home game on Saturday September 9.

Led by quarterback Arron Flowers who threw for over 240 yards and two touchdowns and, a rock solid defense, led by All-American Troy Tuck, the Monarchs dominated the Oilers 51-3. Flowers hit wide receivers David Eastham with a five-yard touchdown pass in the second quarter and, Eric Ruhle on a 61- yard touch down bomb in the third quarter.

Troy Tuck intercepted a pass in the third period and returned it thirty yards for the touch down. Also scoring on defense, defensive end Jerome Elliot recovered a fumbel caused by defensive tackle David Patrick in the zone.



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"I've got that Valley pride down in my heart, down in my heart to stay...win!" chant the Valley Monarchs.

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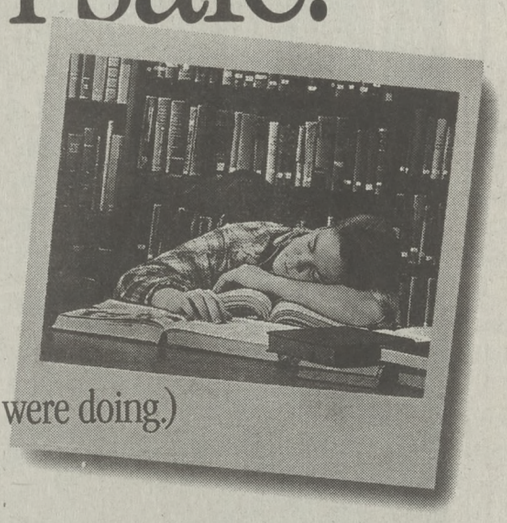

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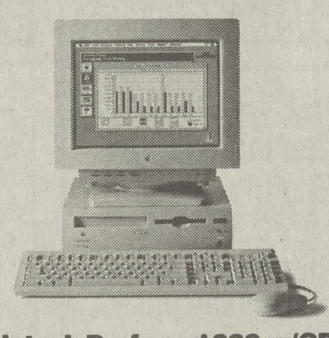

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